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# Labor Day - Professor Mansfield Stresses Labor-Business Cooperation

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Labor Day 1939?

PROFESSOR MANSFIELD STRESSES LABOR\*BUSINESS COOPERATION.

At the Labor Day celebration held in Libby under the auspices of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union and Libby business houses Professor Mike Mansfield of Montana State University delivered the address of the day. He chose for his subject "This Labor Day" and he stressed the need for cooperation and understanding between the organized worker, the businessman and the farmer. He pointed out that labor organized into unions only for the purpose of bettering its position and he delved back into history to illustrate some of the difficulties under which working families had existed. He cited the fact that just a little over a hundred years ago whole families had to work long hours at pitifully low wages in order that they might exist. It was not uncommon, he said, to find in that day and age, little boys working ten to sixteen hours a day, women being used in the mines in place of mules, and the father putting in his time as well in order that the family might live.

All this has been changed due to the efforts of organized labor which was responsible for achieving reforms not through revolutionary means but by evolutionary measures. The chief purpose of organized labor ~~always has been~~ to achieve the greatest good for the greatest number.

Today, the speaker continued, the United States is the only country in the world recognizing Labor Day as a legal holiday. This recognition was no more than just, he declared, because it was the efforts of the workers which helped to create the type of democracy we enjoy in our time. ~~today~~. A worker, said Mr. Mansfield, was not only an individual who worked with his hands <sup>in the field & factory</sup> but also those that worked <sup>in the professions</sup> ~~with their heads~~. Furthermore he declared, there is a community ~~between~~ of interest between the employer and the employee as each is dependent upon the other. If workers receive good wages the businessmen does a good business; if the workers are poorly paid the businessmen suffer, because in the last analysis the worker is the ultimate consumer and purchaser and what he can or cannot do affects the entire business structure.

In conclusion, Professor Mansfield urged business and labor to try and understand one another's problems so that they could work together as a team in order that our democracy might be preserved. "Remember, he said, that in the dictator countries organized labor no longer exists and that business in those nations has become a strictly regimented structure. We want to be sure that labor is allowed to retain its self respect, its courage and its honesty because to this country organized labor is one of the real characteristics of a democracy.